

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 101515Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 2847
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T JIDDA 7501

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, US
SUBJECT: SAUDI-YAR RELATIONS

REF: A) SANA 3099 B. SANA 3086 C. SANA 3070 D. SANA 3055
E. STATE 264171

1. THE AMBASSADOR WAS UNABLE TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD WHO IS NOW ON HIS WAY TO THE UAE AND FONMIN PRINCE SAUD, WHO FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS HAS DELAYED HIS SCHEDULED TRAVEL TO JIDDA, WILL NOW BE ACCOMPANYING FAHD TO THE GULF. MOREOVER THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE EASTERN PROVINCE NOV 10-13. ACCORDINGLY EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER MET WITH ROYAL INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR KAMAL ADHAM EVENING NOV 9. HE RELAYED TO ADHAM EMBASSY SANA'S ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE AND ITS EVALUATION OF THE TURKI VISIT. ADHAM WAS APPRECIATIVE OF OUR PROVIDING HIM WITH THE EVALUATION AND OF THE MOTIVES IN WHICH WE DID SO. HE SAID THAT HE WAS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE EVALUATION AS RELATES TO THE TURKI MISSION.

2. THE FACT OF OUR DEMARCHE TO THE SAUDIS SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE PASSED TO THE YEMENIS. IF IT HAS GOOD EFFECT, SO MUCH THE BETTER, BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE YEMENIS NEED KNOW THAT ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION WAS DUE TO OUR INTERVENTION. WE ARE CONCERNED LEST THE YEMENIS

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COME TO SEE IN US A COUNTERPOISE TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH

THE SAUDIS OR THAT THEY COME TO THINK THAT THEY CAN SKIMP ON THEIR OWN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SAUDIS BECAUSE OF A NOTION THAT THE USG IS WILLING AND ABLE TO STEP IN AND HELP PUT THINGS TO RIGHT. (THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE SAUDI ATTITUDES AND SHAPE SAUDI POLICY TOWARDS THE YAR IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. SAG LEADERS ARE CONVINCED THAT FROM MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE THEY KNOW THE YEMEN BETTER THAN WE DO AND THAT THEY ARE THEREFORE BETTER ABLE TO CONSTRUCT POLICIES TO MEET SAUDI NEEDS. IN THE PRESENT IN-STANCE THE SAUDIS INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF HAMDI AND HIS ABILITIES AND AMBITIONS FOR THE COUNTRY IN MANY WAYS PARALLELS OUR OWN.)

3. THE AMBASSADOR EXPECTS TO SEE CROWN PRINCE FAHD NEXT WEEK AND FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD BEFORE THEN. WHEN HE DOES SEE THEM HE WILL RELAY OUR INTEREST IN HARMONIOUS YAR-SAUDI RELATIONS AND DISCUSS WITH THEM OUR EVALUATION OF THE HAMDI REGIME.

4. WE WILL REPORT BY SEPTEL OUR VIEWS ON SAG POLICY TOWARD YEMEN, AS THEY CONTRAST WITH SOME OF THE ESTIMATES SET FORTH IN SANA'S REFTELS.

AKINS

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